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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC German and Soviet Border Troops at the Fliegerhorst Salzwedel

EVALUATION 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 11 August 1953

REFERENCES 25X1C

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 1 June 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Spawe (fnu) of the border police was transferred from Salzwedel to Muehlberg, Thuringia. He had been in Salzwedel to organize a new border police unit.
2. From 7 March to 11 July 1953, the Fliegerhorst barracks installation in Salzwedel was still occupied by a Soviet border guard unit and pertinent training detail and a German border guard unit. The Soviet border guard unit whose personnel wore black-bordered red epaulets totaled 900 troops and Major Tsivolottsky (fnu), commanding officer of the Fliegerhorst installation, belonged to the unit. Colonel Semenov (fnu), who was stationed in Magdeburg, allegedly was the commanding officer of the Soviet border details in this sector. He was in charge of the units in Salzwedel, Stendal and Gardelegen. 1
3. The German border troops still numbered about 500 troops and, so far as could be observed, wore red service color. The German units allegedly received training from Soviet officers of the training detail, chiefly by way of technical instruction courses. After being quartered together, the German and the Soviet soldiers were quartered separately since about mid-June 1953, with the two quartering areas partitioned off by a wooden fence.
4. After the riots on 17 June 1953, Major Tsivolottsky or his adjutant personally handled all contacts with German agencies. The major occasionally stated that all officers were forbidden to speak to German civilians. He also mentioned that the Soviet officers and soldiers were somewhat bewildered by the present development in East Germany. The questions he asked showed that he did not understand the situation. It was rumored among the population that five soldiers of the border troops had been executed because they had refused to take action against the German workers during the rebellion.

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
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5. In April 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Zabatka (fnu) was chief of the Soviet town komendatura in Salzwedel. The komendatura had a total strength of about 50 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. Another officer at the komendatura was Major Maslenkov (fnu).

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1.  Comment. Major Tsivolotski was previously reported as administrative officer at the district in Salzwedel. Senior Lieutenant Miniuk was previously reported as officer at the Salzwedel komendatura.

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